

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 20, 2022

Mr. Ezra Cohen-Watnick
Chair
Public Interest Declassification Board
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20408

Dear Mr. Cohen-Watnick,

We are writing to request the Public Interest Declassification Board recommend the release of the remaining documents related to President Kennedy's assassination pursuant to, and in accordance with, the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992, also known as the "JFK Act."

This matter of historical and national significance should be delayed no longer, especially as it relates to one of the greatest tragedies in our nation's history—the 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Since the assassination of President Kennedy, public debate regarding the truth of the events of that day has persisted. In the intervening years, many close to the case have expressed concern and cast doubt on the conclusions of the Warren Commission, including President Lyndon B. Johnson, who himself established the Commission to investigate this tragedy. According to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), there are still over 14,800 records that remain unavailable to the public. These concerns and the remaining unreleased trove of documents have furthered public skepticism regarding the facts of the assassination, with nearly 61 percent of Americans in 2017 believing there to have been a conspiracy in President Kennedy's murder.

When Congress unanimously enacted the JFK Act, it gave notice to federal agencies that documents should be processed and released, if not subject to an exemption, by October 26, 2017. Although former President Trump extended this deadline to April 26, 2018, and then October 26, 2021, agencies are still claiming they need more time to process and release documents, particularly because of the burden of the pandemic. These extensions, however, have given the relevant federal agencies an extra two and a half years prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and two and a half years during the pandemic to process, evaluate, and release the relevant records. Given the initial 25-year timeline and these recent extensions, it is unacceptable to use the pandemic as a reason to further delay the release of these documents.

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On November 3, 2021— nearly 58 years after this tragedy, 29 years after the enactment of the JFK Act and five years after the JFK Act's initial deadline — a [letter](#) was sent to President Biden, expressing concern regarding his decision to postpone the release of the remaining documents and urging him to facilitate the release of the remaining documents. Unfortunately, our efforts have been met by continued inaction.

The release of this information is long overdue, and we request that you encourage the Biden Administration to take this important step to promote transparency and restore public trust.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



Tim Burchett
Member of Congress